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already well known in our concert-rooms, also made his first appearance on the stage, singing as he always does, with that consciousness of want of experience in vocalization which renders any attempt at dramatic effect an utter impossibility. The Opera was well placed upon the stage, and met with that success which has now become a matter of course.

ROYAL ENGLISH OPERA.

GOING to the Opera to see a pantomime seems a curious anomaly; but as at this establishment it has now become a melancholy fact, we have but to chronicle the production of the little Operettas which have been successively produced, to play the people into their seats; whilst the real attractions, Harlequin, Columbine, Clown, and Pantaloon, with the one-legged dancer (who has created as much effect with his single leg as Paganini did with his single string) are preparing their antics to make the fortune of the "English Opera Company, Limited." Mr. Frank Mori's Operetta, *The River Sprite*, the libretto by Mr. George Linley, is the last, and we think the best, of the small works to which the management is now compelled to devote itself. The music is light and graceful throughout; and one great merit is that the composer has in no place attempted too much. The choruses are remarkably well written; and one or two of the songs are, we think, likely to become popular. A quintet, too, "What rash assurance," shows beyond doubt that Mr. Mori can write something beyond songs and choruses; and we may also instance as a specimen of good comic music, the Manager's song, "What joyful sensation." Madame Florence Lancia sang with much effect throughout the opera, and is likely to prove a most valuable acquisition to the operatic stage. The rest of the characters were sustained by Mr. C. Lyall, Mr. Perren, Mr. Dussek, Mr. Aynsley Cook, and Mr. Weiss, who all exerted themselves to the utmost to ensure the success of the work. Mr. Mori was called for at the fall of the curtain, and received the applause which we believe he richly merited. We are glad to find that the next novelty is to be an English version of M. Gounod's opera *Le Médecin malgré lui*.

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY.

DURING the past month *Elijah*, and *Israel in Egypt* have been performed in the admirable style to which the Society has now accustomed the frequenters of these concerts. A word of praise must be given to Miss Whytock, who in *Elijah* displayed a fine *contralto* voice, and a feeling for sacred music which, with careful training, may enable her to take rank as a good singer of Oratorio music.

CRYSTAL PALACE.

THE classical character of the programmes at the concerts, under the direction of Mr. Manns, has been steadily preserved at this establishment; and the "Winter Concerts," which commenced on Saturday, the 4th ult., seem likely to attract even more than those already given here. Amongst the orchestral works at the first concert were Beethoven's Symphony in B flat, and Mendelssohn's "Melusine" overture. Madame Arabella Goddard has also been playing a *Fantasia*, by Mr. Lindsay Sloper, on airs from "Mirella," with a dash and brilliancy which fully maintained her character as the best *Fantasia* player of the day.

MR. HENRY LESLIE'S CHOIR.

THE first concert of the present season took place at St. James's Hall on the 9th ult. The programme contained some of the best specimens of the Madrigals and Part-songs especially adapted to display the refinement of Mr. Leslie's choir; and on this occasion they were executed with even more than the usual amount of delicacy

and precision. Two of Mr. Leslie's Part-songs, "My soul to God, my heart to thee," and "Awake, awake, the flowers unfold," were performed for the first time, and created a marked impression upon the audience, the second one being enthusiastically *encored*. The same compliment was also paid to Pinsuti's Part-song, "The sea hath its pearls" (which is an exceedingly effective composition), and also to Spofforth's ever welcome Glee, "Hail, smiling morn," and Henry Smart's melodious Part-song, "Lady, rise." The solo vocalists were Miss Whytock, who is steadily advancing in public favour, and Mr. Cummings. Herr Ludwig Straus delighted everybody by his fine violin playing, which afforded an agreeable relief to the vocal music.

VOCAL ASSOCIATION.

THE second concert of the ninth season of this Society was given at the Music Hall, Store Street, on the 1st ult., under the direction of Mr. Benedict. The programme included the conductor's graceful *Cantata*, "Undine," which was exceedingly well given; the principal vocalists being Miss Emma Jenkins, Miss Palmer Lisle, Mr. B. Friend, and Mr. Lansmere. The address from the Society, printed in the books of words circulated in the room, sufficiently shows that, with proper management, much good might be effected by this Association; and we regret therefore to see it leading rather a wandering life amongst the concert-rooms of the metropolis; and still more to find that many of its members have not been loyal to the cause. Under the able guidance of Mr. Benedict, who we hear gives his gratuitous services to the Society, we trust however that it may yet take a permanent stand amongst the musical institutions of London; and aid in introducing to the public many untried composers and vocalists who might find it difficult to obtain a hearing through any Society established solely as a speculation.

MONDAY POPULAR CONCERTS.

MADAME ARABELLA GODDARD has been the pianist at two of these concerts during the month, the principal feature being her performance of Dussek's "Invocation" Sonata, which was listened to with a breathless attention speaking volumes for the taste of a popular audience. Hummel's Septet was also finely played at the same concert, with Madame Goddard at the pianoforte; and on the following Monday, Mendelssohn's Quartet in F minor again gave her an opportunity of displaying those unflinching executive powers which, whatever may be the opinion of her reading of classical works, must always be sure of producing their effect. Herr Ludwig Straus's violin playing has been on every occasion thoroughly artistic, both in conception and execution; and he is now deservedly accepted as one of the best violinists that has yet appeared at these concerts. On the following Monday Mr. Charles Hallé was the pianist.

MUSICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

AT the trial of new Orchestral Compositions, which took place at the Hanover Square Rooms on the 15th ult., a Symphony by Mr. Gadsby was much admired. Many other compositions showed unmistakable signs of talent, and we have great hopes that this Society may be the means of bringing forward some names still unknown to fame.

THE programme of arrangements for the Triennial Handel Festival at the Crystal Palace contains many very judicious alterations to ensure the comfort of the audience although, in all essential points the Festival of former years will remain unchanged. The performance on each day will commence at three, instead of one, o'clock; and on the Rehearsal day at one, instead of ten, o'clock, thus enabling persons at a distance to reach the Palace

without inconvenience. *The Messiah* and *Israel in Egypt*, will be the two oratorios presented on the Monday and Friday; and the middle day (Wednesday) will be devoted to a selection from Handel's other works. Some idea of the gigantic nature of the undertaking may be realised when we state that the number of executants engaged will fall little short of four thousand. The dates of the performances are fixed for Monday, 26th June, Wednesday 28th June, and Friday 30th June.

WE understand that Mr. and Mrs. German Reed's entertainment, "The Rival Composers," and "The Bard and his Birth-day," will shortly be withdrawn, to make room for a novelty from the pen of the same author, Mr. William Brough. "The Soldier's Legacy" and "Too many Cooks" continue to be represented every Tuesday and Thursday morning. We believe that "Jessy Lea" or "The Sleeping Queen," with "Too many Cooks," will in future be represented every Saturday evening.

MR. Charles Salaman's Lectures on Italian, English, and German Opera, given at the Hull Royal Institution, have been exceedingly successful. The vocal illustrations by Miss Eliza Hughes add much to their attraction, in a musical point of view; and we look forward with interest to the delivery of the lectures in London, which we understand will be during the present month.

THE Annual Festival of the Royal Society of Musicians is fixed to take place on the 15th inst., at the Freemasons' Tavern; President of the day, His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge. We are glad to hear that there is every probability of this excellent Society being shortly amalgamated with the Royal Society of Female Musicians.

THE Islington Vocal Union gave a concert, consisting chiefly of Madrigals and Part-songs, in Barnsbury Hall, on Tuesday evening, the 7th ult. The programme included Mendelssohn's "Hear my prayer," Wilbye's "Sweet honey-sucking bees," Walmisley's "Sweet flowers," several Part-songs for male voices, and a few songs, including Bishop's "Bid me discourse," Balfe's "Excelsior," &c. The soloists were Miss Fanny Hemming, Miss Ryecroft, Mrs. Hancock, and Mr. G. T. Smith. Mr. James Robinson conducted.

ON the 13th ult. a concert was given by Mr. Paul Jerrard, organist of St. Paul's, Lorrimer Square, at the Walworth Institution, to a very large and fashionable audience. The following *artistes* were engaged: Miss Annie Cox, Miss Annie Howard, Messrs. Thomas Rogers, E. Bernard, H. Buckland, Hook, Hulford, and Cayley, assisted by the Walworth Choral Union. Conductors, Mr. F. R. Hart and Mr. Cayley; pianist, Mr. Paul Jerrard. The first part of the programme consisted of a selection from Haydn's *Seasons*, the solo parts being sustained by Miss Annie Cox and Messrs. Rogers and Hulford. The second part consisted of songs, glees, &c.

WE regret to have to record the decease of Mr. John Amott, the well-known organist of Gloucester Cathedral, who died suddenly, of disease of the heart, on the 3rd ult. He had been looking forward with the utmost interest to the Musical Festival to be held this year in the Cathedral. At the funeral, which took place in the Cemetery at Gloucester, the burial service was read by the Very Rev. the Dean of Gloucester, assisted by the Rev. Sir J. Seymour. In compliment to the musical position of the deceased gentleman, there was a full choral service; and a large number of his personal friends followed his remains to the grave, amongst whom were Mr. W. Done and Mr. G. Townshend Smith, his coadjutors in the Triennial Festivals.

ORGAN APPOINTMENTS.—Mr. A. Dawes to St. Martin's Chipping Ongar, Essex.

OBITUARY.—On the 19th ult., Mr. W. R. Braine, Organist of St. Barnabas, Kensington; aged 35 years.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

* * * *Notices of concerts and other information supplied by our friends in the country, must be forwarded as early as possible after the occurrence; otherwise they cannot be inserted. Our correspondents must specifically denote the date of each concert, for without such date no notice can be taken of the performance. All communications must be authenticated by the proper name and address of the writer.*

Mr. Charles Barrett.—*We certainly think that a tube from the organ to the choir would be of great benefit in guiding the intonation of the singers; but it would be advisable to consult some experienced organ builder on the subject.*

Our Correspondents will greatly oblige by writing all names as clearly as possible, as we cannot be responsible for any mistakes which may occur.

We cannot undertake to return offered contributions; the authors, therefore, will do well to retain copies.

Notice is sent to all Subscribers whose payment (in advance) is exhausted. The paper will be discontinued where the Subscription is not renewed. We again remind those who are disappointed in obtaining back numbers, that although the music pages are always stereotyped, only a sufficient quantity of the rest of the paper is printed to supply the current suite.

Brief Summary of Country News.

ABERDEEN.—The Choral Union gave a grand performance of Haydn's *Creation* on Monday evening, the 6th ult. in the Music Hall. The soloists were Madame Lemmens Sherrington, Mr. Montem Smith, and Mr. David Lambert. Madame Sherrington was *encored* in "On mighty pens," and the same lady with Mr. Lambert, gave so fine a rendering of the lovely duet, "Graceful Consort," as to receive a loud *encore*. Mr. Baker was organist; and Mr. Latter, conductor.

ATHERTON.—On Thursday evening, the 26th of Jan., a concert of vocal and instrumental music was given in the Atherton Church School-room by the Church Choir, and was very well patronized. The principal vocalists were Miss Alice Hope, Mr. Edwin Manley, and Mr. Lewes Tyldesley.

BEDFORD.—The first *conversazione* of the Literary and Scientific Institute and General Library was held in the Assembly Rooms on Thursday evening, the 2nd ult. During the evening a good selection of music was performed under the direction of Mr. P. H. Diemer. The vocalists were Mrs. Moody, Mr. Tedder, and Mr. Cox. The band of the 1st Beds. Rifles played the instrumental music, conducted by Mr. John Haines.

BENEFIELD (NORTHANTS).—The members of the Church Choir gave their annual concert in the School-room on Wednesday, the 18th of Jan. The programme consisted of songs, part-songs, instrumental music, &c., many of the pieces being *encored*. The choir-master, Mr. Bullock, conducted.

BERKELEY.—The Choir of St. Mary's Church, under the direction of the organist, Mr. A. M. Moffatt, gave a concert in the Town Hall, on the 25th of January. The programme consisted of a selection of anthems, glees, songs, duets, &c., most of which were very effectively given; Keller's duet, "Morning," sung by the Misses Williams, and a ballad, "I've a welcome," sung by Miss Susan Williams, being warmly *encored*.

BILSTON.—The organ built by Mr. William Johnson, of Moxley, for the New Congregational Chapel, was opened on the 22nd of January, by Mr. R. Rogers, of St. John's, Wolverhampton.

BRISTOL.—On Thursday evening, the 9th ult., Miss Ada Perry, assisted by Miss Ada Jackson, Miss Watson, and Mr. S. B. Miles, as vocalists, and Mr. J. O. Brooke, Mr. A. W. Waite, and Mr. L. Waite, as instrumentalists, gave a concert at the Athenæum, under the patronage of the Right Worshipful the Mayor, who was present.—On Monday, the 13th ult., two concerts (Morning and Evening), were given in the Drill Hall by the Band of the Rifle Corps, assisted by Mr. Sims Reeves Mr. Merrick, &c. The programme consisted chiefly of selections from the works of Mozart, Mendelssohn, Meyerbeer, Gounod, &c., all of which were exceedingly well played by the Volunteer band.